

administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said risk factor is selected from the group consisting of blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, LDL (low-density lipoprotein) susceptibility to retention, LDL susceptibility to aggregation, blood total cholesterol and LDL levels, and blood triglycerides and VLDL (very low-density lipoprotein) concentration.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is selected from the group consisting of blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, serum LDL susceptibility to aggregation and serum LDL susceptibility to retention.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is selected from the group consisting of blood pressure and glucose concentration.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is selected from the group consisting of LDL susceptibility to aggregation and LDL susceptibility to retention.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said risk factor is blood glucose concentration.

6. (Amended) A method for treating inflammation in a patient, comprising

(a) identifying that said patient suffers from inflammation; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby treating said inflammation.

7. (Amended) A method for simultaneously lowering at least two risk factors in a patient, comprising

(a) identifying that said patient suffers from said at least two risk factors; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby lowering said at least two risk factors; wherein each of said at least two risk factors is selected from the group consisting of blood pressure, blood glucose concentration, LDL (low-density lipoprotein) susceptibility to retention, LDL susceptibility to aggregation, blood total cholesterol and LDL levels, and blood triglycerides and VLDL (very low-density lipoprotein) concentration.

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8. (Amended) A method for treating a patient suffering from high blood triglycerides and high LDL (low-density lipoprotein)

levels without decreasing the HDL (high density lipoprotein) level of said patient, comprising

(a) identifying that said patient suffers from high blood triglycerides and high LDL levels; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid.

9. (Amended) A method for treating a patient suffering from a condition, comprising:

(a) identifying that said patient suffers from said condition; and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of atherosclerotic diseases, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, chronic renal failure, carotid artery stenosis, coronary heart diseases, hypercholesterolemia, and hypertriglyceridemia.

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10. (Amended) A method for preventing a patient from suffering from a condition, comprising:

(a) identifying that said patient is in a high risk to suffer from said condition, and

(b) administering to said patient an effective amount of a preparation comprising licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of atherosclerotic disease, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, chronic renal failure, carotid artery stenosis, coronary heart diseases, hypercholesterolemia, and hypertriglyceridemia.

Please add the following new claims:

--11. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

12. (NEW) The method according to claim 6, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

13. (NEW) The method according to claim 7, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

14. (NEW) The method according to claim 8, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

15. (NEW) The method according to claim 9, wherein said licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.

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16. (NEW) The method according to claim 10, wherein said

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Conclusion
licorice extract is an ethanolic extract.--